Rehabilitation of Workers rendered Jobless due to closure of Textile Mills in Ahmedabad

2596. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more then 40,000 workers had been rendered jobless in Ahmedabad as a result of the closure of 30 textile mills in the past decade and their ranks are likely to swell with the addition of nearly 15,000 workers following the closure of eight NTC Mills;

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to engage them in productive activities; and

(c) whether Government have initiated any programme to provide them immediate relief ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (c) As on 30-9-92, there were 25 closed textile mills in Ahmedabad. The number of workers affected following closure of mills were 53,732. The question of closure or retention of individual mills of NTC would be taken up eventually after taking into consideration the impact of viability of labour rationalisation being done through Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other relevant factors. As regards, the private mills, the interest of workers is protected through Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme as per the procedures laid down. For workers who opt for Voluntary Retirement in NTC, schemes for providing self-employment have been drawn up.

Production of Cloth

2597. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated production of cloth, separately for mill-made, powerloom and handloom sectors during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 till date ;

(b) the reasons for decline, if any, in production of cloth especially mill-made cloth; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve production and availability of cloth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) The production of cloth is estimated to be

(mn. sq. mts.)

Sectors	1991-92	1992-93 (April-Sept.)
Mill	2508	1115
Powerloom	12700	8260
Handloom	4812	2087

(b) and (c) In Mill Sector production of cloth is declining due to decrease in the loomage capacity in the sector, Government have taken various steps in this regard like :

(1) Restriction of creation and expansion of capacity has been removed subject only to locational guidelines.

(2) Requirement of licensing has been done away with.

(3) Measures are taken to ensure availability of raw material for the industry through policy intervention whenever necessary.

(4) Textile Machinery can be imported and duty on such machinery has already been reduced in present budget.

(5) Textile Modernisation Fund was created in 1986 and upto the end of March, 1992 sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1367 crores in respect of 357 cases out of which Rs. 836 crores have been disbursed in respect of 304 applications.